

## **Mid-Year Update from the Commissioner**

**21 June 2016**

This is the time of year when we look at our goals for the year, measure the progress being made towards achieving them and look for ways to support the school to achieve the goals by the end of the year.

### **Student Achievement**

At the governance meeting held on 14 June 2016, the mid-year student achievement reports were received and discussed. In general students are tracking well in Years 9 to 13. Intensive work is now being undertaken to ensure the same result is achieved for students in Years 7 and 8, particularly in literacy.

Mr van der Spuy presented his Technology departmental report to the meeting. This was very well received and the endorsement from NZQA is an independent testament to the quality of teaching and assessment in this department.

### **Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Management**

The Rock and Water programme is being rolled out through the Physical Education and Health programme by Mr Jones and the effects of the programme on student wellbeing and behaviour will be monitored and reported on at the end of the year.

### **School Promotion**

The new school website is set to go live on 1 July 2016 and I must extend my thanks to Mr Laurenson for his role in helping the school achieve this goal which will positively promote Aparima College and all the achievements of its students to the wider world.

Liaison with the Maori community, while informal, is in train, support is being provided for students of Te Reo and the school is providing opportunities for students to learn about and participate in aspects of Tikanga Maori, for example the Ki o Rahi tournament.

### **School Communications**

Whilst this is an area where more can always be done, the communications between school and home have been an area of focus and based on feedback from our parent attendees at governance meetings, there has been an improvement in school communications.

### **Compliance – Principal Appraisal**

As reported to the governance meeting, the principal is in her second year of an agreed appraisal process in which I am being assisted by a very experienced independent principal appraiser from Christchurch. Goals were set at the beginning of the year and a mid-year assessment of progress has been undertaken which included feedback from staff.

### **Review of Intervention**

The Ministry of Education will shortly be reviewing the intervention and determining whether or not the school can return to self-governance and if so, what support might be desirable. This might mean a Limited Statutory Manager with responsibility for one or two governance portfolios, a Specialist Advisor to provide advice to the Board or more informal support from the New Zealand School Trustees Association.

It has been very pleasing to have parents regularly attend the governance meetings and show an active interest in the work of a Board of Trustees. The workshop run by the New Zealand School Trustees Association was attended by five parents and by all accounts was very thought provoking. The Ministry needs to have confidence that a board can be formed so the interest shown by parents is very important.

### **Financial Impacts of the Intervention**

The school finances are prudently managed and the school remains in a healthy financial position which has impacted on access to financial support for the costs of the intervention. Travel and accommodation costs are met by the Ministry of Education but the school meets the costs of my fees. Should the scale of the intervention be reduced to a Limited Statutory Manager or Specialist Advisor, it is likely that there will still be a financial implication for the school.

The Annual Report for 2015 has been audited and received by the Ministry of Education. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Executive Officer and in due course the report will be loaded onto the school website.

### **Surveys**

In order to track how you currently view the school - what you think is going well and what you think could be improved - a new survey is being designed and will be sent out in the week prior to the July school holidays. Your views are very important and your responses are always much appreciated.

### **Governance Meetings**

Please note that that you are welcome to attend and participate in governance meetings and that once confirmed, minutes of these meetings are available via the school office and in due course will be available on the school's website.

The next governance meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 in the Graphics Room.

Nicola Hornsey

Commissioner